



English II (Honors and CP): World Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Sophomore World Literature class! This summer, you are assigned to read two books to begin this course's focus on literature that gives voice to various countries, cultures, and experiences around the world. In the assigned books this summer, you will begin exploring the common structure of journey tales that crosses centuries, borders, and genres. You will also complete a written assignment to continue to build the analytical and writing skills that you have learned and will continue to develop throughout the school year. The summer reading books (one required and one of your choice) are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during the reading process. All written assignments are due the first full day of school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Siwik at margarita.siwik@saintjosephprep.org.

Required reading book:

- *The Odyssey* Graphic Novel by Gareth Hind (Candlewick. ISBN 9780763642686).

Student's must select **one other novel of their choice** from the following list:

- *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* by J.K Rowling (Scholastic. ISBN 978-0439708180).
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collin (Scholastic Press. ISBN 978-0439023481).
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (Ember; Reissue edition. ISBN 978-0385732550).
- *Divergent Book 1* by Veronica Roth (Katherine Tegan Books. ISBN 978-0062024039).
- *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians, Book 1* by Rick Riordin (Disney-Hyperion. ISBN 978-0786838653).
- *The House of Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer (Atheneum Books for Young Readers. ISBN 978-0689852237).
- *The Outsiders* by S. E Hinton (Speak. ISBN 978-0142407332).
- *The Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkien (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. ISBN 978-0547928227).

Summer Reading Tasks

1. Read the "Stages of the Hero's Journey" (below).
2. Read and annotate *The Odyssey* graphic novel
3. Choose one contemporary novel from the list above that follows the hero's journey archetype.
4. Fill out Hero's Journey Graphic Organizer for **both** *The Odyssey* and the other book which you have chosen.
5. Write a 500 word essay using the writing prompt below.

6. Be prepared for an extended writing assignment upon return to school.

Stages of Hero's Journey

THE ORDINARY WORLD: The hero, uneasy, uncomfortable or unaware, is introduced sympathetically so the audience can identify with the situation or dilemma. The hero is shown against a background of environment, heredity, and personal history. Some kind of polarity is the hero's life is pulling in different directions and causing stress.

THE CALL TO ADVENTURE: Something shakes up the situation, either from external pressures or from something rising up from deep within, so the hero must face the beginnings of change.

REFUSAL OF THE CALL: The hero feels the fear of the unknown and tries to turn away from the adventure, however briefly. Alternately, another character may express the uncertainty and danger ahead.

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR: The hero comes across a seasoned traveler of the worlds who gives him or her training, equipment, or advice that will help on the journey. Or the hero reaches within to a source of courage and wisdom.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: At the end of Act One, the hero commits to leaving the Ordinary World and entering a new region or condition with unfamiliar rules and values.

TESTS, ALLIES AND ENEMIES: The hero is tested and sorts out allegiances in the Special World.

APPROACH: The hero and newfound allies prepare for the major challenge in the Special World.

THE ORDEAL: Near the middle of the story, the hero enters a central space in the Special World and confronts death or faces his/her greatest fear. Out of the moment of death comes a new life.

THE REWARD: The hero takes possession of the treasure won by facing death. There may be celebration, but there is also danger of losing the treasure again.

THE ROAD BACK: About three-fourths of the way through the story, the hero is driven to complete the adventure, leaving the Special World to be sure the treasure is brought home. Often a chase scene signals the urgency and danger of the mission.

THE RESURRECTION: At the climax, the hero is severely tested once more on the threshold of home. He or she is purified by a last sacrifice, another moment of death and rebirth, but on a higher and more complete level. By the hero's action, the polarities that were in conflict at the beginning are finally resolved.

RETURN WITH THE ELIXIR: The hero returns home or continues the journey, bearing some element of the treasure that has the power to transform the world as the hero has been transformed.

Writing Prompt:

Expository / Informational: Odysseus is a hero on a quest to return home. The main character in your contemporary novel also followed the path of the Hero's Journey. Write an essay proving that the character in your chosen novel is a hero because his/her journey follows key steps within the hero's journey.

- Your essay should be at least 500 words.
- You should write in MLA format, including the proper header, font, margins, etc.
- You will need to include textual evidence to support your ideas with proper parenthetical citations.